

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A plug for the meatus of a lacrimal canaliculus, the plug comprising:

an elongate body ~~(2, 12, 13)~~ having a longitudinal axis ~~(2a) and provided at one of its ends with;~~

a collar provided at one end of said elongate body,
said collar (1, 11) substantially perpendicular to said
longitudinal axis,

~~wherein the said elongate body (2, 12, 13) possesses,~~
~~adjacent to the collar (1, 11),~~ having i) a first portion
adjacent to said collar, said first portion having an elliptical
~~(2, 12) of cross-section that is elliptical~~ with a major axis,
and ii) a second portion made of two branches, each of the two
branches having a cross-section substantially equal to half of
the elliptical cross-section of said first portion,

wherein said two branches are elastically connected to
said first section in order to be biased each branch against the
other branch and to diverge elastically each branch from the
other branch in a plane including the longitudinal axis and the
major axis of the elliptical cross-section of said first portion
~~(3, 4, 13) that extends the first portion (2) obliquely relative~~

~~to its longitudinal axis (2a) in the plane of the above mentioned major axis of the section of the first portion.~~

2-4. (cancelled).

5. (currently amended) A plug according to claim 1, wherein the collar ~~(1, 11)~~ is elliptical in outline with its major axis parallel to the major axis of the first portion ~~(2, 12)~~ of the elongate body.

6. (currently amended) A plug according to claim 1, wherein the collar ~~(1, 11)~~ is offset relative to the longitudinal axis ~~(2a)~~ of the elongate body ~~(2)~~.

7. (new) A plug for the meatus of a lacrimal canaliculus, comprising:

an elongate body having a longitudinal axis and an elliptical cross-section with a major axis;

a collar provided at a first end of said elongate body, said collar substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis; and

two branches elastically connected at a second end of said elongate body,

said two branches biased each branch against the other branch,

said two branches diverging elastically, each branch from the other branch, in a plane including the longitudinal axis and the major axis of the elliptical cross-section of said elongate body,

a sum of the cross-sections of said two branches is substantially equal to the elliptical cross-section of said elongate body, wherein,

the two branches are i) each of said two branches, at rest, are diverging and extend obliquely relative to said longitudinal axis, ii) during insertion into the meatus being brought together under action of an injector appliance for locating the plug into the meatus, and iii) subsequent to insertion into the meatus, diverging elastically each branch from the other branch.

8. (new) A plug according to claim 7, wherein the collar is elliptical in outline with a major axis parallel to the major axis of the elongate body.

9. (new) A plug according to claim 8, wherein the collar is offset relative to the longitudinal axis of the elongate body.

10. (new) A plug according to claim 8, wherein each of said two branches having a cross-section substantially equal to half of the elliptical cross-section of said elongate body.